



Klein Tapped to Chair Energy Task Force, Meets with President Obama on Energy Issues

Washington, DC – Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today traveled to the White House with other members of the New Democrat Coalition to meet with President Obama. As the newly appointed Co-Chair of the group's Energy Task Force, Klein was selected to discuss alternative energy solutions with the President.

Congressman Klein focused his dialogue with President Obama on the creation of a Hybrid and Electric Car Institute, an organization where the best scientists and entrepreneurs can collaborate to produce the breakthrough technology necessary to strengthen the American auto industry. The Institute would provide a venue for American carmakers to work together and develop critical technology to successfully compete for customers in the U.S. and around the world. At a hearing of the House Financial Services Committee late last year, Klein secured a commitment from the CEOs of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler to collaborate across company lines on essential, cutting-edge research and development.

"I join my colleagues in thanking President Obama for hosting us today," Klein said. "It was a very interesting and productive discussion which ranged widely from the economy to foreign policy. It was clear that President Obama shares our commitment as New Democrats to invest in clean, affordable energy alternatives, from solar and wave power in South Florida to electric cars developed by the best and brightest American scientists and entrepreneurs."

As the newly appointed Co-Chair of the New Democrat's Energy Task Force, Klein said today he looked forward to continuing to work with Administration officials and auto company executives to bring the Hybrid and Electric Car Institute to life. Klein and Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) were tapped to co-chair the Energy Task Force by New Democrat Coalition Chairman Ellen Tauscher (CA-10). The New Democrats are a group of moderate, pro-growth Democrats committed to a fiscally responsible and efficient government.

"I would like to thank Chairman Tauscher for this extraordinary opportunity to lead a dynamic, engaged Task Force as we craft policy proposals that will create the green jobs of the future," Klein said. "I look forward to working with my Co-Chair, Congresswoman Halvorson, as we make the most of this critical moment to end our national dependence on oil with smart investments in cutting-edge alternative energy technologies."

"In just two years in Congress, Ron Klein has distinguished himself as a leader on financial and energy issues and I'm pleased that Ron, along with Energy Task Force co-chair, Rep. Debbie Halvorson, will be leading the charge for New Democrats to push for innovative and far reaching policies to lessen our dependence on foreign oil," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Chairman of the New Democrat Coalition.

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